

# AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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### SECOND VIENNA CONGRESS MEETS

In the headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency in the Hofburg in Vienna, more than 500 diplomats from 84 nations are meeting currently in a "Second Vienna Congress." All members of the United Nations or its specialized agencies — and recognizing the International Court of Justice — the diplomats gathered for several weeks of discussion leading to a new "Convention on diplomatic intercourse and immunities."

The UN Conference has before it a draft convention of 45 articles, proposed by the International Law Commission, an agency of the United Nations.

At its opening meeting, Austria's chief delegate, Professor Verdross-Drossberg was unanimously elected chairman of the conference. Austrian President Adolf Schaerf, the Austrian cabinet, members of the Austrian high court and members of the diplomatic corps attended the session.

#### Vienna Synonymous with Diplomatic History

The three major speeches which set the tone for the international conference on diplomatic rights all underlined Vienna's importance in relations among nations.

The legal counsel of the United Nations, Constantin A. Stavropoulos of Greece, who spoke as the representative of UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold, even said:

"For a long time, the name Vienna has been practically synonymous with diplomatic history; thus it is only right that this conference meets here." He praised the initiative of the

Austrian government which had led to this "Second Vienna Congress" and expressed gratitude to the Austrian authorities for the excellent preparations. He said that it was a matter of historical continuity that the conference on diplomatic intercourse and immunities was again held in Vienna, because the Vienna Congress of 1815 had brought about the so-called Vienna Regulations, the first agreement on precedence among diplomatic representatives.

Austrian President Schaerf underscored in his speech the fact that these Vienna Regulations had created the principle of the equality of the representatives of large and small states. But he proposed that governments should correspond more than ever to the common desires of their peoples rather than be satisfied merely with common rules for the activities of their diplomats. These common desires, he said, were peace and security and enough food. Governments should not strive for power over body and soul but help young nations to make proper use of their newly-won freedom.

#### Vienna — Classic Ground of Diplomacy

President Schaerf said in detail:

"Here in Vienna, the term "diplomatic corps" has been used for the first time collectively for all the ambassadors, ministers and charges d'affaires accredited to one country. In the Vienna Regulations of 1815, the diplomatic corps has obtained its first written legal rules, even though they were limited to the narrow field of precedence of rank.



Imperial Castle with Hero's Square

"The UN conference whose discussions begin here today has been called to turn into an international convention the common law which has been created in the field of diplomatic intercourse and diplomatic immunities and to change it into legal rules which correspond to the needs of our time. All the diplomatic representatives in all capitals would thus become a community living under codified regulations.

"Further than establishing common rules for the activities of their diplomats, should not the governments of all countries make more efforts than heretofore to consider those desires which are common to all their peoples? In common, the peoples of all continents and of whatever color of skin look for peace and security. In common, all people detest the use of force and the threat of force for the purpose of gaining selfish political ends. In common, all people of goodwill are of the opinion that it is more important to still hunger than to aid efforts toward power over body and soul.

"In common, governments should help those nations which recently obtained their independence or will soon obtain it to make the proper use of their young freedom. This is the conviction of all those (nations) which themselves are free or those which still fight to be free.

"The United Nations which holds this conference in Vienna has gained enduring merits in the keeping of world peace, in the enforcement of respect for human rights and in the liberation of many peoples from foreign rule and oppression. It continues its efforts with admirable courage and commendable zeal.

"Austria acknowledges unreservedly the principles on which the Charter of the United Nations rests. For this reason too — and not only because this conference has a relationship to the Vienna Congress of 1815 — the Austrians are happy that their capital was chosen the site for this meeting, called to serve the furtherance of peace."

Conference Chairman Verdross-Drossberg pointed out in his acceptance speech that diplomatic usage as it has been practiced in the Western community of nations should now be acknowledged and recognized by the global community of nations.

#### **AUSTRIAN TYROL'S PARLIAMENT DEMANDS FULL AUTONOMY FOR SOUTH TYROL**

In a recent special session, the Provincial Diet of the Austrian Tyrol unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"It is with the greatest regret that the Tyrolean people witnessed the failure of the negotiations conducted so far between the governments of Austria and Italy to secure substantial autonomy for the Province of Bolzano. At a time when the right of self-determination is a principle generally recognized for all peoples of the world, the Tyrolean Diet feels it to be its duty to support to the best of its power and ability the vital rights of the South Tyroleans. The Tyrolean Diet therefore expects the earliest possible resumption of the negotiations between the governments of Austria and Italy with a view to asserting and constituting these vital rights. In the opinion of the Tyrolean Diet, however, such negotiations will achieve their objective only if Italy shows willing-

ness to agree to a settlement which, in the sense of the UN Resolution, will grant our compatriots in the South Tyrol full autonomy for the Province of Bolzano, with regard to the preservation of their ethnical character and the promotion of their economic and cultural interests. In this hour of grave aspects, the Tyrolean Diet once again assures the compatriots in the South Tyrol that it will stand up at any time for their just demands."

#### **AUSTRIAN ELECTED VICE CHAIRMAN OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Dr. Felix Ermacora, professor of international law at the University of Innsbruck, was recently elected a vice chairman of the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

The commission which is now in session consists of 18 UN member states. Among agenda items under discussion is one of special topical importance to Austria: problems concerning the protection of minorities.

Professor Ermacora who also is president of the Austrian Legal Aid Society was a member of the Austrian UN delegation during the South Tyrol debate in the General Assembly last fall and of the Austrian delegation to the recent Milan negotiations.

#### **GOVERNOR APPEALS FOR EUROPEAN SPIRIT IN S. TYROL ISSUE**

In a radio address, the Provincial Governor of the Austrian Tyrol, Hans Tschiggfrey, recently declared:

"After the UN General Assembly in New York, our hopes were pinned on the negotiations in Milan but, unfortunately, developments there brought up utter disappointment. Seeing that ideologies which long since have outlived their claim in our times are still raising their heads, we had to learn that the actual situation is ever so far from a true realization of the European idea, imperative as its implementation would be, and as much as this subject is talked about. Yet we do not give up hope, continuing our firm belief that European spirit in the end will gain ground even in such places where up to now we miss it most sadly."

Recalling that the world's attention is focused on the South Tyrol and emphasizing that the just cause will eventually be victorious, Tschiggfrey reaffirmed the Austrian Tyrol's determination to maintain its watch over the continuation of persistent efforts to secure autonomy for the South Tyrol.

#### **AUSTRIAN OBSERVER AT EICHMANN TRIAL**

The Austrian Federal Government approved a proposal by the Minister for Justice and the Interior which provides for the participation of a representative of the Austrian police at the trial of Adolf Eichmann in Israel.

An announcement to this effect said that it was possible that during the trial events may be brought up which took place in Austria. The Austrian observer will, for that reason, have the task to note names and dates to enable the police to prosecute guilty Austrians.



## BENEFACTORS OF HUMANITY IN OLD VIENNA

However far back we follow the history of civilization we come across the traces of the work of great physicians and healers. As far back as antiquity precise observation of life processes, unflagging research and intrepid gifts for combining facts led to astonishing results in the healing of various illnesses. Hippocrates and Galenus practised medicine already as a systematic science. The heritage they left behind was taken over and developed further in the first place by the physicians of the Arabian civilization, but their influence has also remained perceptible down to the present day. Vienna quickly became the centre of medical science and for this reason the medical faculty was at all times strictly in favour of thorough training for physicians.

### The Oldest Hospitals

Another factor which was just as important for the evolution of medicine as the training of doctors was the rise of hospitals which developed from travellers hostels. Their



*The Alma Mater Rudolphina Vindobonensis was founded by Duke Rudolph IV of Austria in the year 1365. Its Medical Faculty is one of the oldest of its kind in the realm of the German language, and documentary proof of its activities reaches back to 1389. The records of the Medical Deanery have been preserved without interruption from 1399 to the present. The oldest documents relating to Vienna hospitals date back to around 1200.*

emergence may be accounted for by the social attitude of the time, since this enjoined upon everyone the obligation of helping sick and destitute fellow creatures to overcome their distress.

In the first place it was a case of ecclesiastic establishments, as for example the Schotten hospital which came into being in 1211. Then later, in 1257, the secular "Burgerspital" was erected, an establishment which, from the very first, was administered by the city authorities, which later also elected the hospital heads. The activities of the head of the hospital were always controlled by the city council, but on the whole he was allowed a great amount of freedom of decision. Emphasis was again and again attached by the authorities to the

fact that the Burgerspital was to hold open its doors to the poor and sick or to such people in need of a place of refuge.

### A Load of Salt for the Burgerspital

Rich presents and legacies enabled the Burgerspital to carry out its work throughout the centuries which followed. In addition it enjoyed valuable privileges bestowed on it by the reigning princes, as for example the yearly load of salt which it received free of charge from the salt-office. In 1432 the establishment received the exclusive permission to sell beer in Vienna, a prerogative which was taken advantage of by inducing every brewer to pay a certain tax to the Burgerspital for his products. In 1688 the city ceded to the establishment the so-called beer and wine taxes, the result being that the Burgerspital became the only authority for the granting of sale-of-alcohol licenses within the area of the city. The Burgerspital also enjoyed authoritative powers, as for example the control of begging in Vienna, the management of the police for poor people, the expulsion from Vienna of foreign beggars, their punishment in the pillory or with flogging.

### The Allgemeines Krankenhaus (General Hospital)

Josef II. was the ruler who was responsible for the noble deed of having the poor-house converted into the Allgemeines Krankenhaus. The city poor-house, which had been completed in 1769 at the incitation of Abraham a Sancta Clara, was intended to accommodate in the first place the wounded from the Turkish wars. The establishment was supported to a great extent by generous donations from Cardinal Kollonitz, the Graf of Wels and the Freiherr von Thavonat, while the state allowed it to impose various duties such as the tax on beer, wood, hired carriages and sedan chairs. In addition, regular collections were made for its upkeep in the streets and from house to house.

The Emperor Josef II. then caused a thorough reorganization of the poor-houses and hospitals which, as he realized soon enough, were badly in need of it. At his instigation a council was formed in 1782 whose task it was to superintend the various establishments of this kind. In the same year the city's doctors were requested to work out plans for the conversion of the city poor house into a central infirmary. The winner of the contest which was arranged was a certain Josef von Quarin, and his job it was to equip the new large hospital and then serve as its director. Quarin proved to be a clever organizer who accomplished the gigantic task set him within a few years. As head of the hospital he enforced strict regulations, orderliness and cleanliness and his accomplishments in the field of medicine were at the same time also above average. The Allgemeines Krankenhaus was opened in 1784 and comprised the actual hospital itself, the lying-in hospital, the lunatic asylum, the infirmary for the sick and the foundling hospital. There were, in all, four different classes of treatment, for the first the price was one guilder, the fourth was free.

### Anatomy Lecture in the Churchyard

A second great act performed by Josef II. in the field of medicine was the founding of the medical and surgical acad-



*Oldest Seal of the Vienna University, 1364*



*Seal of the Medical Faculty of the Vienna University  
from the Year 1404*

emy, the Josephinum, in the Währinger Strabe, whose wax-work collection today still forms one of the city's sights. The various objects were made by a Florentine artist at Josef's request and each one constitutes a masterpiece of precision. Thanks to these wax imitations generations of medical students were able to extend and develop their knowledge of human anatomy.

In comparison with many other towns the medical art had maintained a high level in Vienna from the Middle Ages right down to the formation of the first Vienna medical school. The university, the town council and the ruling monarch vied with one another in their efforts to win over famous doctors. The series of important Vienna doctors was begun, so to speak, by Hermann Lurcz who in 1392 was the rector of the University of Vienna. Down to the 15th century the classical figures in medicine were Hippocrates, Galenus and the Arab doctors, above all Avicenna. A change in this attitude was produced by Paracelsus, 1493-1541, who with gifted intrepidity built up his own original chemical and theosophical system of instruction and for a long time afterwards influenced the development of medicine.

In the 16th century Aichholz reintroduced the neglected practice of dissecting corpses, the material for which was supplied by the hangman in exchange for a reasonable tip. Before this could happen, of course, a certificate had to be issued by the court that the obnoxious person had really and truly expired.

Whereas previously anatomy instruction on corpses had to be carried out in the cemetery of the city hospital, the

rooms of the medical faculty were now used for this purpose. In 1570 Leobschutz drew up plague regulations which also proved to be a highly useful work for medical students. Wilhelm Managetta, the physician in ordinary to three emperors and the inventor of the Vienna Trankl (draught), a popular remedy for constipation, lectured at the Vienna University from 1622 till 1666.

Paul Sorbait gained his reputation from his work in combatting the plague; he organized health authorities which were in many respects of a really modern character and held accurate views as to the nature of infection and its effective control. Apart from the doctors who had graduated from university, there were surgeons and barber-surgeons who exercised their professions usually in a mechanical sort of way, which however, does not mean to say that there were no capable or highly skilled men among them. Such people often ventured to perform difficult operations, attempted to remedy surgically ruptures and cataracts and even carried out trepanations.

#### **The First Vienna Medical School**

But it was not until the appointment by Maria Theresa of Gerhard van Swieten that the Vienna Medical School became an institute of world-wide fame. Van Swieten, who was born on May 7th, 1700 in Leyden, was a pupil of Hermann Boerhaves who had carried on the Leyden Medical School after the death of its founder Otto Heurnius. The Dutchman Van Swieten, who was well versed in high society behaviour, soon won the complete confidence of the empress and her husband, with the result that he not only served the Vienna court as a physician but also as an advisor and administrator.

In addition to his official duties van Swieten also managed to give lectures on anatomy, pharmaceuticals and pathology and even to contribute to medical literature. His main aim, however, was the training of able doctors, and he urged the introduction of a practical course of medical training, the instruction of would-be doctors at the bed-side.

#### **The Classicists of Vienna Medicine**

The names of Hebra, Rokitansky and Skoda are connected with the appellation "Second Vienna Medical School" which won a world-wide renomme as a result of its scientific successes. Carl Freiherr von Rokitansky, who was influenced strongly in his way of thinking by Kant, was known as the founder of critical medicine, the trend of development which kept consciously aloof from mere speculative thought. This does not mean to say that Rokitansky was a materialist; he encouraged strictly realistic methods with regard to research but did not accept realism as a philosophy. In all he dissected more than 90,000 corpses and was untiring in his quest into the secrets of life and disease.

Side by side with Rokitansky was Josef Skoda, the son of a locksmith from Pilsen, who busied himself mostly with practical duties. At no time did Skoda lose contact with the people, for it was from these that his strength came. Whereas Rokitansky was a sceptic who had no real confidence in medical antidotes and who placed more faith in the constitution of the sick person and the healing powers of nature, Skoda had recourse to every possible type of remedy in the struggle against disease. Whereas Rokitansky was usually to be found

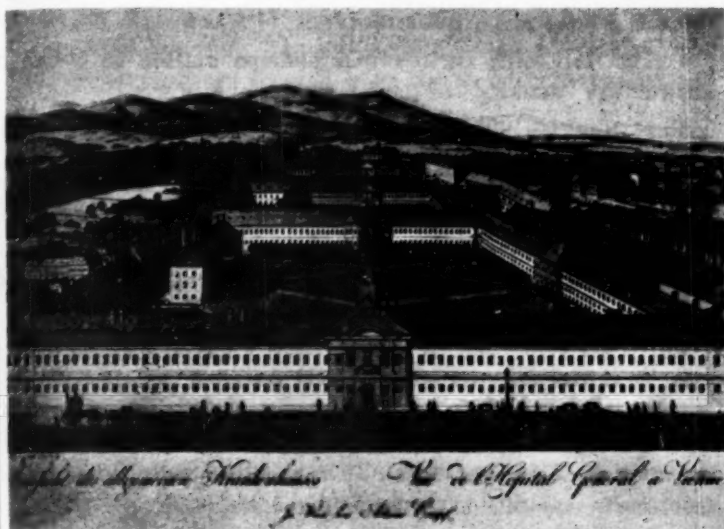


in the mortuary, Skoda spent the greater part of his time in the hospital ward. By means of auscultation and a method of tapping Skoda evolved his system of physical therapy, replaced the conventional symptomatic disease patterns by anatomical disease types and thus elaborated a practicable method of diagnosis applicable in the case of disorders of the respiratory and circulatory systems.

Ferdinand von Hebra devoted himself to skin diseases, a sector of medicine which before his time had only been dallied with. Hebra proved that the skin is one of the main organs of the human body and that health is dependent upon its correct functioning. Josef Hyrtl was both research worker and artist, possessed a striking gift of oratory and busied himself in the main with descriptive anatomy. Johann von Oppolzer was another highly gifted physician whose philanthropy knew no bounds.

#### The Great Billroth and His Colleagues

The Vienna Medical School achieved new splendour through the appointment of Theodor Billroth. This gifted surgeon who was born in Rugen soon accustomed himself to life



*The Vienna General Hospital at the Time of Its Foundation by Emperor Joseph II in 1783.*

in Vienna; he was a great friend of Johannes Brahms and proved to be himself a highly sensitive and masterly musician. His surgical operations earned themselves the name of venturous, as for example his stomach resections, larynx extirpations, kidney spleen and liver operations. During and after the period of Billroth's activity Vienna was the field of operation of a large number of talented physicians. Hermann Nothnagel introduced scientific diagnosis. Edmund von Neusser was the medical advisor of the Emperor Franz Joseph and the high aristocracy. Theodor von Escherich developed children's treatment to a very high level, his work being continued by Clemens von Pirquet. Theodor Meynert evolved new theories and methods of examination in brain surgery. Julius Wagner von Jauregg's attempts at treating paralysis of the brain with malaria therapy met with success. Karl Gussenbauer, Billroth's successor, constructed the first artificial larynx, championed universalism in medicine and warned his colleagues about the danger of a splitting of medicine into

various special branches of study, each one separate from the next. Julius von Hochenegg and Anton von Eiselsberg founded together the accidents wards. Eiselsberg concentrated on disorders of the thyroid glands, the spinal marrow and the brain. Guido Holzknecht, the pioneer of roentgenology devoted his life to the service of science and suffering humanity.

Looking back we find that the characteristic feature about medicine as exercised in Vienna since the Middle Ages is its close connection with social trends. The leading physicians wanted firstly to help suffering people and secondly to serve the cause of scientific research. In their work the inspiration of genius often played an important part; without exception they all possessed the clinical ability that verges on clairvoyance. In addition, they had sensitive fingers capable of performing operations which bordered on the miraculous. All of them, however, possessed that cordiality which has for centuries characterized the inhabitants of Vienna.

#### COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY DEAN PAYS TRIBUTE TO AUSTRIAN PHYSICIANS

In a message to the New York Medical Circle, H. Houston Merritt, Dean, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, recently said:

"The medical profession of New York and the College of Physicians and Surgeons, in particular, has been greatly enriched by the contributions of a large number of Austrian physicians who have elected to make this country their home. Among those who have served our University are Drs. David Adlersberg, formerly Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine (deceased); Franz Altmann, Clinical Professor of Otolaryngology; Frederick Blodi, formerly Research Worker in the Department of Ophthalmology, Erwin Chargaff, Professor of Biochemistry, Bernhard Dattner, formerly Assistant Clinical Professor of Neurology (deceased); Zacharias Dische, Professor of Biochemistry, assigned to Ophthalmology, Gabriele Ehrlich, Research Worker in the Department of Ophthalmology; Marcel Goldenberg, formerly Assistant Professor of Medicine (deceased); Alexander B. Gutman, Professor of Medicine; Hans Hoff, formerly Assistant Professor of Neurology; Hans Kaunitz, Research Associate in Pathology; Hans Popper, Professor of Pathology; Ludwig von Sallmann, formerly Professor of Ophthalmology; Alfred Schick, Associate in Psychiatry; Gerhart S. Schwarz, Assistant Professor of Radiology; Maximilian Silbermann, Assistant Clinical Professor of Neurology; Ludwig V. Chiavacci, formerly Assistant Researcher in Neurology; Hans Smetana, formerly Assistant Professor of Pathology, Herbert C. Stoerk, formerly Instructor in Pathology, Paul Wermer, Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine and Paul Loewy, Assistant Neurologist, Presbyterian Hospital (deceased).

"It would take a large volume to enumerate the contributions of these men to medicine, particularly during their years in this country. Many of their contributions have been of fundamental importance and have helped to elevate American medicine to its high level of excellence. The breadth and significance of their work can be documented by citing a few instances of the problems studied by them:

"Dr. Franz Altmann - Histopathology of the ear and histopathology and therapy of Meniere's disease; Dr. Erwin Chargaff - Study of chemical and biological properties of Nucleoproteins; Dr. Bernhard Dattner - Diagnosis and therapy of neurosyphilis; Dr. Zacharias Dische - Application of biochemical methods to study of diseases of the eye; Dr. Marcel Goldenberg - Studies of the hormones elaborated by the adrenal leading to a new treatment of shock by nor-epinephrine; Dr. Alexander B. Gutman - Studies on gout; Dr. Hans Kaunitz - Studies of Vitamin E, fat and salt metabolism; Dr. Hans Popper - Pathogenesis of diseases of the liver; Dr. Ludwig von Sallmann - Various problems concerning etiology and therapy of eye diseases; Dr. Maximilian Silbermann - Neurological aspects of the non-chromaffin paragangliomas and the syndrome of increased intracranial pressure without localizing signs; and Dr. Paul Wermer - Endocrine studies leading to the description of a new syndrome characterized by the occurrence of adenomas in several of the endocrine glands at one time."

#### AUSTRIA'S PHARMACEUTICAL MARKET EXEMPLARY LAWS PROTECT CONSUMER

Since the end of World War I the production and supply of medical goods has been determined in Austria by a special law which has well proved its worth and has been copied in most other industrially developed countries in one form or another.

The inspection control of the industry assigned to the Austrian sanitary authorities by way of the medicaments law and other sanitary regulations has only rarely led to complaints, a fact which testifies to the sense of responsibility and the high standard of this branch of Austrian industry.

5,880 different types of medicaments are registered at the Austrian People's Health Office, only 6.3% of which being intended for veterinary purposes. 80% of the remedies registered are only obtainable in chemists' shops by way of prescription, 3% are drugs or with drug content, 20% are obtainable without prescription. Half of the antidotes registered in Austria are produced at home, the rest being licensed products or imported preparations or bulk goods imported and then made up in Austria. The licensed pharmaceutical remedies, the manufacture of which has been assigned to Austrian firms by licensing concerns, might actually also be regarded as home production. A lot of work is carried out in Austria on a licence basis, thus a great amount of foreign exchange is saved and the small Austrian firms have the expert support of large-scale concerns including all the latter's valuable experience. By preparing the medicaments in Austria the firms thus undertake the main bulk of the work and help to ensure full employment.

The above-mentioned medicaments law prevents the market from being flooded with medical preparations. Any antidote for registration by the Health Office must display a certain degree of novelty, it must be based on some newly-won knowledge and exhibit a new form of efficacy; it must be more than merely a sterile variation or imitation of something that is already in use. This restriction has been enforced by the health authorities not in order to check competition between various firms or impede the industry by means of regu-

lations - it would be more fitting, should this be the only objective in view, for the firms to impose moderation upon themselves - but to protect the consumer. A surfeit of the market, an uncalculable number of remedies makes control difficult and results in a series of deficiencies which might prove harmful to patients.

Apart from the above-mentioned inspection of firms the Austrian medicaments law provides for a yearly control of samples on sale in the country and also regulates the advertising of medical preparations. Such preparations which can only be sold on prescription are only allowed to be advertised in medical periodicals and journals, others obtainable without prescription may be brought to the public's notice in daily and weekly papers. Any such texts used for advertising purposes must, however, receive first of all the approbation of the health authorities.

Out of a population of 7 million 70,000 people are occupied in Austria as doctors and nursing personnel. Of these 13,800 are hospital doctors, 6,000 general practitioners, 3,000 specialists, 1,500 specialized dentists, 2,500 ordinary dentists, 2,300 doctors still undergoing training in hospitals, 16,000 nurses and 2,800 midwives.

The following figures will perhaps suffice to give an idea of the "density" of the health service. For every 11,000 people there is one chemist's shop, for every 7 chemists' shops one concern employing 35 people and turning out pharmaceutical products for 70,000 people.

Consumption of medicaments in Austria total only A.S. 135 per person per year. (Ed 26 A.S. = 1 \$)

In several districts of Austria, especially in the mountains, there is only one doctor for every 1,500 of the population, in the towns one for less than 500 people. On an average there are for every doctor 536 people. This is a much lower figure than in 1925 when there were 893 per doctor and less than a third of the "density" in 1890 when there were as many as 1,692 per doctor. The medical service has thus trebled its capacity in the last 70 years.

Conditions are similar with regard to the hospitals. In 1936 there were in Austria 40,000 hospital beds, by 1957 this figure had risen to almost 74,000, one bed per 100 of the population. In addition there are 2,900 ambulance stations where outpatients are treated.

The greater part of the concerns engaged in the production of medicinal preparations are concentrated in Vienna, the capital, with its old industrial tradition. There are, however, several firms of considerable importance in Tyrol and Upper Austria; Styria, Carinthia, Salzburg and the remaining provinces show lower production figures. The pharmaceutical industry will in future favour flat open areas as sites for its factories. The air of large towns and industrial areas, contaminated as it is with fumes, dust and impurities, does not offer surroundings for such concerns, and the equipment for filling ampoules or for manufacturing antibiotics free from infection demands disproportionately rigorous safety measures.

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## NEW AUSTRIAN PHARMACOPOEIA TO BE PUBLISHED SOON

A new Austrian pharmacopoeia will be made public this year. It will contain more than 1,800 pages.

Legislation to make this pharmacopoeia the regulatory instrument for public health and the traffic of pharmaceutical products in Austria is being drafted at the present in the Federal Ministry for Social Administration.

The importance of a pharmacopoeia for the public health derives from the fact that while the layman needs no special assistance in judging the quality of the ordinary type of consumer goods, he is at a loss without the help of an expert when it comes to pharmaceutical preparations. Their efficacy and non-toxic character can only be established by professionals in the field of pharmacology. Therefore, the consumer must be protected by the creation of precise and minute regulations and standards which, in addition, ensure the uniformity of all pharmaceutical products.

Austria's pharmacopoeias have had a very lively history. Thus, in 1938 the Austrian pharmacopoeia, which was then ready for printing, was laid aside as a result of political events, and the many years of tedious work which had gone into its making were ignored when the German pharmacopoeia was put into force in Austria. Since this pharmacopoeia dates from the year 1926 and is now antiquated a pharmacopoeia commission was created in the Ministry for Social Administration which after many years of scientific work and the solving of numerous difficulties has made possible the enforcement in the near future of the Austrian pharmacopoeia, the "Pharmacopoea Austriaca, Editio nona". During the years in question a special research laboratory under the control of the Ministry for Social Administration has been busy working out the general regulations as well as the separate articles on the more than 900 medicines and raw materials, of which a substantial number have to be available in every chemist's shop.

The regulations of the Austrian pharmacopoeia which comes into force next year and which will be one of Europe's most up-to-date pharmacopoeias, will, together with Austria's ideally run pharmaceutical matters, continue to improve the conditions necessary for ensuring a high level of public health.

## 54,715 REFUGEES STILL IN AUSTRIA

According to a recent announcement of the Austrian Interior Ministry, 54,715 refugees are still being cared for in Austria. Of this number 40,750 are so-called old refugees, namely persons who came to Austria after the end of World War II. The others are 13,965 so-called new refugees, namely 8,940 Hungarians, 4,185 Yugoslavs and 840 other nationals.

In view of the fact that Austria at one time gave haven to more than 180,000 Hungarian refugees, the Interior Ministry considers the Hungarian refugee problem as generally solved.

For the more than 13,000 refugees who still live in camps, the appropriate relief program envisions the construction of 3,000 apartments. The first 500 will be made available in the course of the current year. The rest will be completed during 1962.

The Austrian contribution toward the project which will

move these refugees from camps into private residences amounts to about \$10 million.

On the occasion of the recent official visit of the newly appointed UN high commissioner for refugees, Felix Schnyder, Austrian Interior Minister Afritsch expressed regrets that the expected foreign aid had so far reached Austria only to a very small degree. He said that the lack of funds caused by the slow flow of foreign refugee aid had resulted in certain difficulties in the financing of the construction program.

Aside from this project, the Yugoslav refugee program is of much importance to Austria. In 1960 alone, about 4,600 refugees arrived from Yugoslavia. During the same year, however, only 2,308 Yugoslavs were able to emigrate elsewhere, because generally speaking only Australia and Canada may be considered as host countries for these refugees. Only Sweden has offered to accept a number of Yugoslav refugees in the near future, Afritsch said.

The Yugoslav refugees whose flow does not appear to stop are of particular financial importance to Austria because no international relief is available for them.

### Refugee Film Appeals to Public

High Commissioner Schnyder announced at a press conference that while considerable financial means given by governments were still at the disposal of his office they were not sufficient to cover the necessary relief projects. For that reason, appeals were under preparation in which the broad public will be asked to contribute the additional funds. Along these lines, a film showing the life of a Hungarian refugee family will be produced in Austria.

## VIENNA PHILHARMONIC, BACKHAUS TRIUMPH IN PARIS

The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra's first guest performance in Paris recently resulted in a musical triumph for the visiting Austrian orchestra, its conductor, Herbert von Karajan, and the soloist, pianist Wilhelm Backhaus.

The concert took place in the Theatre des Champs Elysees. The program included Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 and Bruckner's Symphony No. 7.

When Backhaus finished his rendition of the concerto, he was greeted by an ovation and had to return to the stage innumerable times. Among the many Americans present at the performance was Mrs. Joseph Kennedy, mother of the president of the United States.

Karajan and the orchestra were also wildly applauded.

## HELEN HAYES PLAYS VIENNA

Helen Hayes, first lady of the American stage, will perform at Vienna's Burgtheater April 18, 19 and 20.

The famous artist will give several guest performances during the European tour of the American Theater Guild's repertory company. During the sojourn in Vienna, the company will offer Tennessee Williams' "Glass Menagerie," Thornton Wilder's "The Skin of our Teeth," and William Gibson's "The Miracle Worker." All performances will be given in English.

**PAUL WITTGENSTEIN DIED**

Vienna-born concert pianist Paul Wittgenstein died at Manhasset, L.I., on March 3. He was 73 years old.

Wittgenstein had studied piano with Leschetizky, and in 1913 he made his concert debut in Vienna. Thereafter, until the outbreak of the first World War, he played in all important European music centers. Serving as an officer in the Austrian Army during the war, he was wounded on the Russian front and had his right arm amputated. Returning home, he trained himself to play with only the left hand, practicing for as long as seven hours a day. He had no teacher and developed his own one-hand exercises to increase his speed and sonority. By 1916 he was ready to embark on his new career.

Many composers, including Richard Strauss, Erich Wolfgang Korngold, Serge Prokofieff and Franz Schmitt wrote music for Wittgenstein's special needs. One piece that became part of the regular repertoire was Ravel's Piano Concerto for Left Hand, composed in 1931 and performed by Mr. Wittgenstein for the first time in the United States in New York's Carnegie Hall with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Wittgenstein emigrated to the United States in 1940.

**STIEGLER AND HECHER AUSTRIAN SKI CHAMPS**

During the recent Austrian ski championships in Lienz, Austria's Olympic Silver Medal winners Pepi Stiegler and Traudl Hecher won the combination titles for men and women, respectively. Both had earlier taken the championships in the slalom contests. Stiegler, 23, a native Lienz, had also

taken second place in the giant slalom behind Martin Burger and fifth place in the downhill contest. His total score amounted to 3.63 ahead of Karl Schranz (3.72), Ernst Flach (10.26), Heini Messner (13.92), Hermann Muschenschnabel (15.69) and Hans Leitner (16.92).

Traudl Hecher, the 17-year old Tyrolean ski queen and the winter's most successful skier, had to be satisfied with fourth place in the giant slalom (which was won by Marianne Jahn) and eighth place in the downhill. But her score could not be beaten by any of the runners-up. She ended with a score of 3.22 over Sieglinde Braeuer (6.06), Edith Zimmermann (6.94), Gertrud Gaber (6.95), Traudl Eder (8.36) and Grete Grander (8.45).

**AUSTRIAN CONSULATES ON THE MOVE**

Austria's honorary consulate general in Havana, Cuba, has moved to new offices at the following address:

Consulado General de Austria,  
Calle 14 No. 506, entre 5a. y 7a.  
Avenida Rep. Miramar,  
La Habana, Cuba

The Austrian consulate in Cleveland has also changed quarters. Its address is:

Austrian Consulate  
1420 The Illuminating Building  
55 Public Square  
Cleveland 13, Ohio (Phone: MAIn 1-5588)

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